

## REMARKS

Upon entry of this Reply, claims 16-21 will remain in this application. Claims 1-15 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The replacement paragraphs referred to in section 1 on page 2 of the Office Action have been further amended above after consideration of the comments provided by the Examiner. If any further errors or informalities are considered to be present, specific identification of such errors or informalities is requested.

Reconsideration of the rejections of claim 16, claim 19, and the claims depending thereon based on U.S. Patent 4,559,868 to Nonaka et al. is requested. It is respectfully submitted that the instrument panel device forming the subject matter of the Nonaka et al. patent does not include fastening structure formed by arms disposed above the housing part and at least one peripheral leg and slotted cover part recesses for receiving such arms and such a leg, with the arms, the at least one leg, and the recesses inclined toward a vehicle passenger space as claim 16 defines.

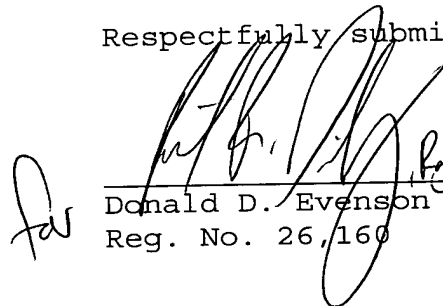
The Nonaka et al. top wall portion 29, identified as a "housing part" by the Examiner, does not have arms disposed above it and a peripheral leg forming fastening structure as claim 16 requires. The Nonaka et al. upper panel 6, moreover, does not form a "cover part" having slotted recesses therein for receiving such arms and such a leg, and it is not possible

to conclude that the Nonaka et al. device includes arms, a leg, and recesses inclined as specified by claim 16. It follows that claim 16 is patentable over the Nonaka et al. patent. Method claim 19 contains language similar to that of claim 16 and is also patentable. Dependent claims 17, 18, 20, and 21 are patentable as well.

This application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Date: September 30, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

  
Donald D. Evenson  
Reg. No. 26,160

CROWELL & MORING LLP  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, D.C. 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844  
DDE:RRD:msy

MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In each paragraph or claim appearing below, additions are underlined and deletions are bracketed.

Replacement paragraphs 0002, 0003 and 0005:

--[0002] The present invention relates to a dashboard of a motor vehicle such as a passenger car. The dashboard comprises [a] an upper or cover part which covers and is fastened at least partially to the housing upper part of a heating and/or air conditioning system housing.--

--[0003] In prior art dashboards, upper parts can be attached to [installations] components and front cross members only while windshields, which attach to the upper parts, have not yet been mounted. Once a windshield has been mounted, an upper part of a prior art dashboard can be disassembled only with considerable effort, if the windshield is not disassembled along with it. Therefore, any repairs to this upper part and [installations] components covered by the upper part require considerable assembly work.--

--[0005] This object is achieved by providing cover and housing upper parts with [meshing] fastening structure and recesses which are positioned toward the top corner relative to the interior of the motor vehicle and which can be fitted together in this direction.--

Amended claims 16, 17, 19, and 20.

16. (Three times amended) A passenger motor vehicle comprising:

a vehicle windshield,

a crossmember on which the vehicle windshield is mounted,

and

a vehicle dashboard assembly disposed behind the windshield in front of a vehicle passenger space,

said dashboard assembly including a housing part [provided with], fastening structure formed by arms disposed above the housing part and at least one peripheral leg, and a cover part having slotted recesses therein for receiving the [fastening structure] arms and the at least one leg when the cover part is installed in the vehicle,

wherein the [fastening structure] arms, the at least one leg, and the recesses are inclined toward the vehicle passenger space, and

wherein the housing part is mounted to the vehicle body and the cover part is thereafter detachably fixed to the housing part.

17. (Twice amended) The passenger motor vehicle according to claim 16, wherein the housing part is an upper part of a housing of a heating and/or air conditioning system, and wherein said [fastening structure includes] arms [which] are directed toward vehicle sides and, together with the cover

part, form at least one air channel when the cover part is installed in the vehicle.

19. (Three times amended) A method of making a passenger motor vehicle comprising:

mounting a vehicle windshield in a final position on a vehicle body,

mounting a housing part [provided with] and fastening structure, formed by arms disposed above the housing part adjacent the vehicle windshield and at least one peripheral leg, at a side of a vehicle passenger space facing the windshield, and

subsequently detachably connecting a cover part of a vehicle dashboard to the [fastening structure] arms and the at least one leg,

wherein the cover part is provided with slotted recesses therein for receiving the [fastening structure] arms and the at least one leg when the cover part is installed in the vehicle, and

wherein the [fastening structure] arms, the at least one leg, and the recesses are inclined toward the vehicle passenger space.

20. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the housing part is an upper part of a housing of a heating and/or air conditioning system, and wherein said [fastening structure includes] arms [which] are directed toward vehicle sides and, together with the cover part, form

at least one air channel when the cover part is installed in the vehicle.